

ordinary skill will be able to effect various changes, substitutions of equivalents and various other aspects of the invention as broadly disclosed herein. It is therefore intended that the protection granted hereon be limited only by the definition contained in the appended claims and equivalents thereof.

I claim:

1. A public communications terminal for advertising or ordering services offered by an Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) telephone system having an integrated service control point (ISCP) operatively connected via control-signal channels to Service Switching Points (SSP), and a service creation environment (SCE), said terminal comprising:

a connection to a servicing telephone landline contained in said AIN and connected to an SSP;

a display, including video and audio output devices, and configured to graphically display a region having a plurality of separate areas and served by a plurality of separate user facilities, each said user facility being associated with a unique subscriber telephone line other than said servicing telephone landline;

a processor including storage means for storing operating and program data;

said processor being responsive to said data for controlling said video/audio output means to present to a user of said terminal a video/audio depiction of available services for service selection and input of parameters;

input means associated with said video output means and responsive to actuation by a user for generating signals defining selection and parameter inputs by said user wherein, responsive to actuation by the user, an area within a displayed region to be served by an associated one of the plurality of separate facilities is selectable;

interface means for receiving said signals and translating said signals into data defining services and service parameters, and for storing said data in said storage means; and

means for downloading said data to said SCE through said ISCP to effect service changes to the associated subscriber telephone lines other than said servicing telephone landline, wherein service is changeable such that service orders originating from a selected area are directed to the facility associated with said selected area.

2. The terminal according to claim 1 wherein said operating and program data in conjunction with said processor effect output from said display including service advertising, service description and instructions for using said terminal for arranging a service.

3. The terminal according to claim 1 wherein said input means includes a touch screen on said video device.

4. The terminal according to claim 1 wherein said input means includes mouse driven selection device.

5. The terminal according to claim 1 wherein at least certain of said data stored in said storage means has been input from a medium supplied by a telephone service provider.

6. The terminal according to claim 1 wherein said processor responsive to stored program data and data input by said user controls said video device to display a step-by-step graphical depiction of the creation of a service selected and defined by said user.

7. The terminal according to claim 6 wherein said processor responsive to stored program data and data input by said user controls said video device to provide a demonstration of the operation of the service selected and defined by said user.

8. The terminal according to claim 1, further comprising a switch, and means for actuating said switch to connect said terminal to said AIN and transfer to said AIN data from said storage in said terminal to install the selected service for use.

9. The terminal according to claim 1, further comprising a high capacity storage means having stored therein data indicating the current service feature status of subscriber telephones to said AIN, said processor arranged for accessing said data in said high capacity storage means responsive to a user input of a directory number.

10. A public communications terminal for advertising or ordering enhanced telephone services offered by an Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) telephone system having an integrated service control point (ISCP) operatively connected via control signal channels to Service Switching Points (SSP), and a service creation environment (SCE), said terminal comprising:

a connection to a servicing telephone landline contained in said AIN and connected to an SSP;

a display, including video and audio output devices, and configured to graphically display separate areas within a facility having an associated plurality of communications devices, each said area having an associated service responsibility;

a processor including storage means for storing operating and program data;

high capacity storage means for storing data indicative of an enhanced service feature status of communications devices served by said AIN;

said processor being responsive to said data for controlling said video/audio output devices to present to a user of said terminal a video/audio depiction of available enhanced services for service selection and input of parameters;

input means associated with said video output devices and responsive to actuation by a user for generating signals defining selection and parameter input by said user in response to queries from said display wherein, responsive to actuation by the user, an area within said facility to be served by an associated one of said plurality of communications devices located within said facility and connected to a unique subscriber telephone line is selectable;

interface means for receiving said signals and translating said signals into data defining enhanced services and service parameters and for storing said data in said storage means; and

means for downloading said data to said SCE through said ISCP to effect service changes to subscriber telephone lines other than said servicing telephone landline, wherein service is changeable such that, orders for a service corresponding to the service responsibility associated with a selected area are directed to the communications device associated with said selected area.

11. The terminal according to claim 10 wherein said input means responsive to input of a directory number by said user generates signals defining selection and parameter inputs by said user in response to queries from said display which are responsive to said enhanced service feature status data stored in said high capacity storage means to insure compatibility of enhanced services offered to said user.

12. The terminal according to claim 10 wherein said operating and program data in conjunction with said processor effect output from said display including animated video and graphic depictions for implementing selection and parameter inputs by said user.